

**WRITTEN PLAN OF ACTION  
UTE INDIAN TRIBE CULTURAL RIGHTS AND PROTECTION OFFICE  
MERKLY DROP IRRIGATION PROJECT  
UINTAH COUNTY, UTAH**

The following procedures specify treatment, documentation, and temporary disposition of Native American human remains and funerary objects that may be encountered during archeological excavation in advance of the subject undertaking. Upon the suspected discovery of human remains all activities in the immediate area will cease. The archeological monitor will immediately notify the BIA Western Regional Archeologist at either (602) 379-6750 or (602) 418-8503, as well as the Director of the Ute Indian Tribe's Cultural Rights and Protection Office at (435) 722-4992.

**REMOVAL OF HUMAN REMAINS**

- 1) No human remains or funerary objects will be removed from this project area.
- 2) **All human remains and potential human remains are to be treated with respect and dignity at all times.** This includes:
  - a) Avoidance of any unnecessary disturbance and handling of human remains and funerary objects.
  - b) Avoidance of separation of human remains from associated funerary objects.
  - c) Avoidance of physical modifications of human remains and associated funerary objects.
  - d) No photographs of human remains will be allowed.

**DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS**

- 1) Any human remains encountered during the course of this project will not be disturbed or moved. This also applies to collection of associated artifacts or other material in the immediate vicinity of the human remains.
  - a) If discovered bones cannot be positively identified as non-human in the field, they will be treated as if they were human.

- 2) Any remains exposed during the course of this project will be immediately covered unless further documentation is deemed necessary by the Director, Cultural Rights and Protection.
- 3) All human remains and funerary objects will be secured at all times. If remains are to remain exposed, an acceptable means of protection will be employed, including placing a fabric barrier over the remains prior to capping the area with a tarp or section of plywood, or by temporarily reburying the materials. The type of protection necessary will depend on factors such as the location of the materials, traffic through the site, weather, and condition of sediments. This will only be in the event that the remains need further documentation.

**DOCUMENTATION OF HUMAN REMAINS AND FUNERARY OBJECTS (IF DEEMED NECESSARY BY DIRECTOR, CULTURAL RIGHTS AND PROTECTION)**

- 1) **The destructive treatment of any human remains or associated funerary object is prohibited.**
- 2) Documentation of human remains must be of sufficient detail to identify individual items and specific contexts in which the remains were associated. Human remains documentation will include bone by bone inventory, information on age and sex with documentation on the methods of assessment used, and morphological data appropriate to basic documentation efforts.
- 3) Documentation of funerary objects will include standard information on material, form, style, dimensions, and description of each object or group of objects. This documentation must include an explicit statement of which objects were associated with which individual set of human remains.
- 4) Treatment during field documentation shall proceed with the following provisions:
  - a) Washing of human remains and funerary objects is prohibited. Human remains and only the exterior of associated funerary objects can be wiped with a dry cloth.
  - b) No photographs of human remains or funerary objects may be taken. Detailed illustrations of human remains and funerary objects can be made.
- 5) Contextual information in the excavation report must include clear identification of the archeological site from which the human remains and associated funerary objects were removed; a site map indicating the location of all burial features; and feature maps clearly showing the position of human remains and the associated funerary objects relative to one another. The circumstances of the excavation shall include date, personnel, and permit number.